



# THE COMMUNICATOR SURREY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Volume II

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Issue XLII

## VE7SAR

## VE7RSC

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**SARC**  
Surrey Amateur Radio Club

**ALWAYS MONITOR 147.36+ (110.9)**  
**OR 443.775+ (110.9 in and out) IRLP 1463**

**CLUB NET @ 8:00 P.M. Tuesday 147.36+ (110.9)**

**CLUB MAILING ADDRESS : 239 -7156 121 St. Surrey, B.C. V3W 0J6**

**The next meeting of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club will be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday March 10th 2010 at Number Nine Training Centre 14901 64th Avenue**  
**Talk in on 147.36+ (110.9) 443.775+ (110.9)**

## SARC Meeting Minutes Feb 10, 2010

22 in attendance (12 Surrey, 7 from Langley, 2 from Delta, 1 from North Shore)

7:23pm - John VA7XB opened the meeting and called on Bill VE7XS for a RAC report and Fred VE7IO for a SEPARS report.

Bill VE7XS commented on Vancouver Olympics Amateur Radio Group (VOARG) and the special event Olympic call signs that can be reserved on the VOARG website. Currently 10,600 contacts have been made using the special call signs. He then encouraged all to register on the VOARG.CA website and use the call

signs to promote the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

Fred VE7IO commented on SEPARS activities

- Radio room upgrade with the gaming grant funds has been 99% completed
- A modem required to complete the order is delayed in customs
- Net control operations flow will be completed prior to the presentation March 17
- The new SARC antenna trailer is set up at fire hall #1 with antenna at 80ft (when raised) and ready for the RTTY contest on Feb 13 and 14.
- The SEPARS radio room at Fire Hall #1 is available for anyone to use the

special Olympic call signs. Modes available include D-STAR, IRLP, SSB, CW, digital. Please contact Fred VE7IO or John VA7XB to book the room.

- ICOM has agreed to contribute \$1,000 to the costs of producing the Special Olympic QSL card to commemorate the call signs VG7V, VG7W, VG7G. Additional funding is still required and SEPAR will be looking for donations.

John VA7XB continued by reporting the following...

- Continuing with the planned upcoming Ham classes will depend on the number of students interested and securing a suitable venue
- The SARC 2 meter VHF repeater (147.360 MHz) has been upgraded with EchoLink (node 496228) and IRLP (node1980). The UHF repeater (443.775 MHz) continues to usable for IRLP (node 1463).
- Gift Certificates have been sent to both Steve Coleman VE7MAN and Dave Cameron VE7LTD in appreciation for installing and configuring the new 2 m repeater controller.
- Proceeding with plans to move the 2 meter antenna at the repeater site further up the tower to improve coverage.
- Financial report as of the end of January: Chequing account balance is \$563 with \$120 ready to deposit and \$2,975 in an interest-paying account.
- Don VA7GL reported on the new tower trailer
  - o Received a manual for the generator
  - o Have requested a US Tower Operators manual
  - o Currently the battery required to start the generator appears defective and may need replacing.
- March meeting will feature Lionel Edwards VE7BQH who will be speaking on the topic of moonbounce (EME)
- April meeting will feature more on operation of EchoLink and IRLP
- Requests have been made for a D-STAR refresher; Gordon Dick VE7FKY is to be contacted
- May 1 is the scheduled date for the Bunny hunt
- Upcoming field day will be a joint venture with Langley club with plans to use Campbell Valley and Redwood Park in alternate years .
- Date of the Surrey/Langley flea market is set for August 22
- 7:45 – John VA7XB asked the Langley club members to introduce themselves and handed the meeting over to them for a presentation on their 2 successful contacts with the International Space station including challenges, lessons learned, equipment used and planning required. Presenters were: Greg Banta VA7GAB, John Mackay VE7EEX, Charlie Milazzo VE7RM, Bill Gipps VE7XS, Dave Barber VE7BU, Al Munnik VE7MP. The LARA team was thanked by John VA7XB for a great presentation.

Meeting adjourned following 50/50 draw – winning number was 475.

### March meeting

The presentation on moonbounce planned for the March 10th meeting has been postponed to April. Instead, we will have a regular meeting to discuss business, upcoming events and the general direction of the club.

John Brodie VA7XB

## President's Message

### Don't Let a Golden Opportunity Slip By

I often like to dabble in contests but never take them too seriously. If I can make 10 or 20 DX contacts in a weekend contest, that requires a lot of hard work from my home QTH where I have limited resources – a vertical antenna for the high bands, an inverted vee for the low bands and a 100 watt HF transceiver with some digital software installed. Let me tell you about my weekend of Feb. 13/14<sup>th</sup>, which was different because it offered a unique opportunity to have some serious fun and snag some big DX in the CQ RTTY DX Contest. This is what was available to me: a modern 100 watt transceiver interfaced with a computer set up for digital modes at the EOC radio room (Surrey No. 1 Firehall), courtesy of SEPARS and Surrey Fire Services. SEPARS' facilities are installed in a comfortable, well-furnished room with 5 operating stations. SARC's contribution to the setup was its new 100 ft. crank-up tower/trailer donated by Telus a few weeks ago. My own TH7 tri-band beam, gathering cobwebs on the ground for the last 5 years, had been put on the tower a week earlier and was connected to the radio by 100 ft. of LMR400 coax. The tower was placed in one corner of the parking lot and cordoned off with hazard tape. The propane generator on the trailer is started up at the beginning and end of each day, to raise and lower the beam.

I did not participate in the contest in the usual way, which is to make as many contacts with as many callsign prefixes as possible. Rather, I selected the stations I wished to work and only contacted them in "search and pounce" mode. I was late starting on Saturday, arriving mid afternoon, just in time to catch the opening to JA land – not too exciting – so far. It was a different situation early on Sunday morning after I raised the tower to 70 ft., turned the beam to north, and found 20 metres wide open and jumping with European stations. One after another I worked stations from Sicily on the south, to Ukraine on the east, Portugal on the west, Finland to the north, with dozens in-between. When the Europeans started to fade out around

noon, I turned the beam east and worked a couple of West African stations. Later in the afternoon I pointed it southeast and worked many Caribbean and South American stations. Once I had contacted every DX station I could hear on 15 and 20m, I turned the beam northwest and worked stations in Japan, Russia, South Korea and the Philippines, before quitting for the day in mid afternoon. I made around 250 contacts over 2 days, though could easily have tripled this number if I had done the contest in the usual way.

Surrey Fire Services has graciously allowed SARC and SEPARS members access to the radio room during these events. The Firemen have expressed curiosity about what we are doing and why. In using the radio room, we explain that our purpose is partly to publicize the Olympics, partly to familiarize ourselves with the new radio gear, and partly to practice radio skills. However, these are just excuses to enjoy use of radio. The tower and beam will stay at the Firehall until the end of March. Between now and then, there are a number of contests scheduled – these include the ARRL CW DX contest (Feb. 20/21), North American QSO Party (Feb. 27/28), CLARA contest (March 9 & 13), EA PSK contest (Mar. 13/14), North American RTTY Sprint (Mar. 14), BARTG RTTY (Mar. 21/22), to mention just a few. There are also several VHF/UHF contests during this period. Check out <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/perpetualcal.php> or the latest QST Contest Corral page.

If you are an apartment dweller who doesn't have access to HF facilities, if you have limited experience with contesting but want to do more, if you enjoy DX chasing but don't have the means, do not pass up this opportunity to take advantage of a first-rate facility and have some fun. You might also consider booking the 2010 Olympics call sign VG7G. This opportunity will end in a few weeks time so don't delay if you wish to make use of a really fine HF, VHF and UHF setup. Let Fred Orsetti VE7IO or John VA7XB know and some time at the EOC can be scheduled for your use.

John VA7XB

## **Contacts With the International Space Station Langley ARA's Presentation at Surrey ARC's Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Six members of Langley Amateur Radio Association (LARA) attended SARC's meeting on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> to make a presentation on their two successful contacts with the International Space Station (ISS). The team described the inspiration behind the event, the equipment used as well as tribulations in getting it assembled and working, and video clips of the students asking their questions and the live

responses received from the ISS. The teamwork approach was said to be key to success of the effort, with each participant contributing their own particular skills toward the objective. Many thanks to LARA for this inspiring talk. Members of the team shown in the photo below are, from left to right:

Greg Banta VA7GAB  
John Mackay VE7EEX  
Charlie Milazzo VE7RM  
Bill Gipps VE7XS  
Dave Barber VE7BU  
Al Munnik VE7MP

## **The Amateur Radio Crew**



# Learn CW...

Every Tuesday evening *after* the Surrey Amateur Radio Club's VHF Net at 20:30 local time on VE7RSC repeater (147.360 tone 110.9) there is 20 minutes of Morse code practice sent in 5 minute "tracks." We started in November with learning the characters, numbers and prosigns at 5 w.p.m. and during January I will be sending practice sessions from 5, 6.6, 8 and 10 w.p.m.

February through March speeds will increase from 10 to 15 w.p.m. and April to May we go from 15 to 22 w.p.m. – Just in time for Field Day.

The on-air course starts all over again in late September.

Practice sessions – converted from audio format to MP3 -- are made available after each Tuesday, on my FTP site at <http://www.members.shaw.ca/gws/> for a two-day period and then the next track is uploaded, again for a two-day period until the entire course from beginning to end has been posted.

Audio format CD's can be ordered by e-mailing me at [ve7as@rac.ca](mailto:ve7as@rac.ca) for a nominal fee to pay for the 8 CDs in the series plus postage.

## CODE ENDORSEMENTS:

At any time after you can send and receive 12 w.p.m. with 100% confidence, go to <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf06064.html> and download the application. Contact your club's Volunteer Examiner and arrange to take your endorsement exam.

To register, or for further information on hand-keys, keyers & paddles, practice oscillators, etc. Contact me via e-mail.

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Gary VE7AS.